

M I N U T E S

PRINCIPAL STAFF MEETING Tuesday, January 17, 2006

Present:	Bill O'Donnell	Truman Wolfe
	Dick Judy	Carolyn Hefner
	Herb Andrick	Greg Kist
	Charlotte Wertz	Greg Stone
	Louis Aspey	Pat Bowen
	Rick Heaslip	Carol Lagodich
	Steve Carpenter	Roseanne Kennedy

The meeting was called to order by the facilitator Carol Lagodich at 8:00 am.

HERB ANDRICK

Herb discussed the Authorized Signature List for Farm Bill Programs. This list was sent to the three ASTC-FO's. This list will be sent out by bulletin this week. The one program that won't apply to this list will be the CSP Program. Herb will retain approval on this list.

Herb discussed Farm Bill Applications. We have 481 applications in EQIP totaling about \$5 million. We will fund everything that is in the system. Next year we will be hurting because there will be no backlog from which to draw. Therefore, he asked everyone to encourage their staffs to get more applications so we can get EQIP funds for next year. We have 69 applications in the WHIP in ProTracts. Thirty-five (35) do not have cost estimates. Herb would like to see this corrected. We have no AMA funds this year. We have 61 WHIP applications at this time, but some of these do not have cost lists.

Herb discussed Magic Tickets for software installation. A lot of this software does not have an enterprise license. Therefore, we will be charged at the end of the year and don't know what the cost will be. He asked everyone to be frugal on what we are loading onto our computers. Software does cost money. Service Pac 2 for Toolkit has been released. We need to get this loaded on the computers as quickly as possible. Before we can submit Magic Tickets, we need to make sure we have all cooperator files checked back in.

Last Thursday evening Herb conducted a CSP Meeting at Mt. Clare with approximately 40 people in attendance. This was very encouraging.

TRUMAN WOLFE

There will be a State Technical Committee Meeting this Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Morgantown Service Center. Also on Thursday there will be a RC&D

Quarterly Meeting at Mt. Clare at 10:00 a.m. and a Dunloup Creek Meeting in Glen Jean in the evening. The Legislative process is in full swing in Charleston.

GREG STONE

Greg briefly discussed the Dunloup Creek Meeting scheduled for Thursday evening in Glen Jean. This issue is going to get very interesting in the next few months.

GREG KIST

Discussed the Performance Management Plans and Appraisal Worksheets he is working on for all the employees he supervises. This is a very time-consuming task.

Herb asked Greg to forward him the EQIP cost-rates for his area.

HERB ANDRICK

He hopes to get the rankings on the web some time this week. Herb was very impressed with the quality of the work from the Local Work Groups (LWG's). He checked with the FO's to see if all of them had sent in their cost lists. All had done so. There was a CSP teleconference last week and they were told there will be a 30-45 day sign-up period. It could be scheduled to begin as early as February 1, but Herb thinks it will start a little later than that. There is a new version of water quality assessment tool for cropland.

RICK HEASLIP

There is a deadline of January 21 for employees to submit their first certification for conservation plans. Rick has received about 15 responses to date. Three employees have completed all three conservation plans and meet their conservation requirements. Rick asked the ASTC-FO's to double check with their employees and encourage them to submit these plans immediately.

STEVE CARPENTER

They finished soil and water sampling in Lost River last week. He is looking forward to seeing the data when it gets back from the lab in Ames, Iowa. They are meeting with the Ag Experiment Station today at 11:30 a.m.

BILL O'DONNELL

Ron Hilliard is attending the National Leadership Team Meeting this week and Louis Aspey is attending this meeting with him. Bill sent the ASTC-FO's and RC&D Coordinators a note from Terry D'Addio on the times of the training in Atlanta. He is not sure how many employees we can send to this training. It will depend on the cost. On January 24th some of the Principal Staff will go to the National Geospatial Development Center (NGDC) to talk to Jon Hempel

about flooding visualization. The State FAC Meeting is scheduled on January 26th at Guthrie beginning at 10:00 a.m. The State Emergency Board Meeting will immediately follow at approximately 11:00 a.m. Also a Legislative Meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m. a meeting on the Farm Bureau will be held at the Holiday Inn Charleston House. Carolyn Hefner suggested people attending this meeting should be in line early. This morning we received a new budget via fax from Dick Coombe regarding changes on PMC. This revision will be sent out later this week. Bulletin No. WV190-6-1 concerning Rangeland and Pastureland Conservationist of the Year will be going out today. Nominations should be sent directly to NHQ.

Next year's Partnership Conference is scheduled for the week of October 23, 2006 in Charleston. The National Theme will be "Water Wise." There will be some more time devoted to technical issues. Some suggested topics were the Soil Survey Phosphorus Study, Web Soil Survey, Concentrated Animal Feeding, and Rapid Watershed Assessments. Due to the budget, we will be sending no more than 15-20 employees to this meeting.

NORM BAILEY

He briefly discussed some upcoming meetings. There will be a meeting on January 19th of the Grassland Committee followed by meetings on the Grassland Conference and also a Multi-flora Rose Committee meeting. On January 23, there will be a meeting on the State Lime Program.

Next Principal Staff Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2006 at 7:55 a.m.